

“Dream On!”

Psalms 19:1-3

Drake Hunter - January 06, 2018

Lord, we thank you for giving us “Free Will” in LIFE, and we ask for forgiveness for living in part when you clearly want us to live through the integrity of LIFE through Your Son Jesus Christ. We ask for your Spirit to guide us, so we can truly enjoy LIFE completely. We now submit to your Direction as we conform to Your Ways; we pray this in Jesus name. Amen!

Since this is the first Sunday of the year, and before we get into the message, I would like to share with you a small summary of what 2019 is going to look like for our church.

Last year’s theme was “Believe Again!” Believe again in the core principles of Christ to motivate your LIFE. This year is all about developing a godly character by living out those core beliefs, so you can experience LIFE standing on God’s solid-rock “Greatness” through His truth and Spirit.

With the New Year comes new hope, new confidence and, yep, you guessed it, a new theme. This year’s theme is... “L.I.F.E. – ROCK ON!” L.I.F.E. stands for “Living In Faith Every day”, and ROCK ON stands for, the ROCK of Life, Jesus, and the Greatness of God we position ourselves on to live out “a rocken” good LIFE.

As a Christian, LIFE is living through the rocken Ways of Jesus, those ways we uncovered in 2018, to reach our radical divine dreams. Know, dreams begin with a physical life or should I say “secular life” that’s given through birth, and then, we are “Born Again” to experience Spiritual life.

Understand, this morning, physical birth was not your choice, but Spiritual birth is. That’s why being “Born Again” is so rocken cool!

Understand, both secular and Spiritual must be in place if we expect to live with int LIFE’s integrity towards God’s plan – individually and collectively. Again, and common sense says this, both the secular and Spiritual life co-exist, and they must live together rightly and appropriately if life is to be meaningful and substantial. Know, one cannot exist without the other. The physical (secular) and Spiritual are one in the integrity of LIFE. There is no getting around it.

For me, when I think of physical life, being born from mama, I think of my experiences with my children to include by granddaughter, Lilly-Pad, before they were even born. Today, we are fortunate to live in the age of technology where we get to see babies before they are born.

Who here has seen their child or, perhaps, a child through ultra-sound technology before birth? Many!

Know, you are witnessing, first hand, a miracle, and the experts have learned so much through this technology. One thing they have learned is before a child is born and what they do in mama’s womb is what they will do after they are born. For example, my grand-daughter, Lilly-pad, in her ultra-sound images was like this [Sucking thumb and other hand holding ear] all the time before she was born, and she did this all the time after she was born. On the other hand, my second child, Jeremiah, was like this [Stretched out arms and yawning] and he took a lot of naps in mama’s womb. And guess what? He did the same after he was born. Now Joshua, my oldest son, you all know him, in his ultra-sound he looked like this... [Throw a fit, knock stool over, grunt, etc.] ...and that’s why we must be spiritually born, “Born Again!”

My point, just know, both the practical and spiritual must come together to live in the integrity of LIFE so we can fulfill our purpose and attain the dreams God has prepared for us.

LIFE truly is a miracle, and that is what this whole year is dedicated to... "L.I.F.E. - ROCK ON!"

Now, to give understanding of what we mean by L.I.F.E. – ROCK ON, this next year we will be establishing L.I.F.E. Groups, and then to help support these groups, nearly every Sunday, our Elder team will be delivering messages about living LIFE on the rock-solid ways of God through Jesus.

Our goal this year is to give understanding of what “Integrity” is for the Christian LIFE, and how to live it out standing on the Greatness of God (God the Father), through the Goodness of God (God the Son) using the inspiration of God (God the Spirit) to guide us in attaining our LIFE dreams.

Because LIFE is both “secular” and spiritual” I thought it would be fun and interesting, in our message series, to use popular secular "Classic Rock" songs to reveal spiritual lessons of LIFE.

I believe, this yearlong series will assist you/us in your/our life long “Journey” to understand “Who” you/we are, so your “Heart” won’t fall into a “Black Sabbath”. Again, my aim is to, as quickly as I can, “Rush” you into the rewards of LIFE so you can “Kiss” the face of Jesus, daily, so you can fly with the “Eagles” who have used the “AC/DC” of the Holy Spirit to knock out “The Kinks” of Life.

Believe me, there are no “Cheap Tricks”, no “Foreigners”, or “Bad Company” here that will make you feel you’re living in a spiritual “Iron Maiden”. “Yes”, there’s going to be, “Gun N’ Roses in your spirit this next year, but that’s o-kay because when it’s all said and done; at the end of this “LIFE – Rock On” series we’ll all be living in a state of “Nirvana” with God and Others.

So, with that, let’s, as “Aerosmith” shared, and our message today, “Dream On”. Read with me...

#### Psalms 19:1-3

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
<sup>2</sup>Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup>They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.

Psalms 19 is a clear picture of how vast and far-reaching God’s glory expands. Everything declares and proclaims God. And just like everything else your dreams should pour out God’s glory and reveal who He is in your everyday LIFE. Just like God’s General revelation, what I call, The Book of Creation, your dreams, day after day, should be poured out, not through audible means, as Psalms 19, shares, but through the exposure of living those dreams out every day to get you to the very best of “Who You Are”.

Please note, I did not say “What You Do”. Our focus should be on developing “Who You Are” rather than “What You Do”, because, ultimately, “Who You Are” determines your sequel - your sequel LIFE. You know, your next LIFE.

Every one of us in LIFE need individual dreams. Understand, once our values are in place, that is our faith, and we understand “why” we are here, then we can dream big in what we will become. No matter how old your breath maybe, you should always have big dreams to “become” what God commands all living human beings. Again, if you’re breathing, I speaking to you! And we do this by doing things that assist us in attaining our dreams, and those things are setting goals that support what we do to attain our dreams.

Every day you should set up objectives, that is, do things throughout your day to support your goals that will get you to your dreams. So, to help you get to your dreams let me give some practical steps to help you set goals that will give you the ability to attain your dreams, so you can Dream-On.

First, every morning when you stand in front of the mirror, like me, 'Every time I look in the mirror', know, all "these lines on my face", when setting goals God's way, are "getting clearer". Not because of the practical side of life, where, "the past is gone" and it cannot change, which, by the way, "it went by like dusk to dawn" but "isn't that the way. "Everybody's got the dues in life to pay." either the dues of God, that's living in His Grace and blessings, or the dues of man that living in the ways of death, "For the wages of sin is death." Death is always the dues of man, like living in the past. Know, the past is not alive, and recall the very clear message within the Bible – God is ALIVE! So quit living in the dead past and live LIFE today!

When looking in the mirror, be careful to say, "I know nobody knows; where it comes and where it goes" because we do understand where it comes and where it goes, the truth is "it's everybody sin that you got to lose to know how to win." That is, you got to lose "self" to win the heart of God. So, don't forget to look in the mirror daily to remind yourself of your dreams and then, "You" go to work to support your dreams by setting goals. When it comes to dreams, the bible says...

Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)

"God can do anything, you know-far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams"

Setting goals are key to making your dreams a reality. Why? Because the Bible tells us that Jesus set goals. In fact, he often announced publicly what his goal was for the next phase of his LIFE or should I say ministry. Never forget, your LIFE is your ministry?

Why should we set goals to attain our dreams? Well, let me give three reasons why you should set goals to attain your dreams.

1. You need to set goals because it is your spiritual responsibility.

Philippians 3:12-15 (CEV)

"I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize . . . I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize that God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done. All of us who are mature should think in this same way".

If you don't have goals for your dreams, you have already decided to let other people run your life, because you haven't clarified how you want to grow in the next phase of your LIFE as a follower of Jesus Christ. The Bible says that to be spiritually mature in your relationship with God and others, you must set goals – personally, marriages, families, church, etc., and move toward them as you keep your eyes focused on your dreams for LIFE.

2. You need to set goals because they are statements of faith toward your dreams.

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint;  
but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

If you're a believer of Christ and set goals, you're saying, "I believe that God wants me to be whatever "that" is for you by a particular time. You're saying, "This is what I believe God is doing in my life to get me to "That", that dream to fulfill your purpose.

When thinking about it, goals are actually more than just statements of faith, they are there to stretch your LIFE, to help you grow closer and closer to your dreams.

Make sure your goals stretch you enough to help you to the next phase of getting you to your dreams, rather than doing what many people do, stretch themselves so far, which, in-turn, pushes them back further than before. Remember, it's about developing "Who You Are", your character in Christ, stretching a little bit at a time, one day at a time, rather than over stretching yourself into oblivion which brings us back to nothing or emptiness as the book of Geneses shares.

3. You need to set goals because they focus your direction and energy to your dreams.

1 Corinthians 9:26

"Therefore, I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air."

Focus is the key to a real life, an authentic life. If you spread your energy out and diffuse it over a whole bunch of things, you'll make no impact at all. But if you focus your life, it's going to be powerful, and it will change the world. Dream-On! You don't have time to do everything. But here's the good news: God doesn't expect you to do everything! The key to being effective in life is to do what matters most and forget everything else. Goals help you maintain that kind of focus to attain your dreams.

These three steps from the Bible will help you get your LIFE plan started and remember the only way to have a successful plan is to "Work Your Plan!" So, work it without excuse, even if you're a 100.

The Classic Rock Band, Aerosmith, secularly speaking, was on to something, "Dream On". There's value in dreams. However: if that value sits on the secular side of LIFE and not on the spiritual side, where God's greatness resides, then those dreams are sure to die, "for the wages of sin is death".

Rather than placing your dreams on the secular side of life, let's depend on the rock-solid ways of our faith to set practical goals so we can authentically attain our wildest dreams. The message: Dream-On! Amen.